present work of the Inspector, under the orders of three District Superintendents of Police, would easily lead to a conflict of duties, and suggested that the Inspector be given with a clerk for correspondence work.

Concerning the *Redeemer* accident, the Member stated that the accident could have been averted by the exercise of due care and caution on the part of the Police officers on the spot and that the accident was the outcome of a want of reasonable foresight on the part of the police officers concerned.

Finally, the Member made reference to the unsatisfactory way in which the present Village Panchayat Courts were worked, to the want of regular attendance on the part of the judges, and to the haphazard ways in which judgments were written. He suggested that an attendance register for the judges should be maintained in each office and that vacancies in judge's posts should be filled on the suggestion of the outgoing judges and not on the recommendations of the Dewan Peishkars, as was the case at present.

The Member said that a great portion of the revenue of the State was now being spent on the salaries of officers, and that, in the present conditions of Travancore, it was highly necessary to reduce that amount as far as possible. He made the following suggestions in that respect.

(1) Foreigners should not be entertained in the service. The policy advocated, he said, would reduce expenditure, as Travancoreans would be satisfied with much lower salaries than those required by outsiders.

(2) The number of unnecessary appointments should also be reduced as far as possible. The assistants of all officers came under that class. Their work could, he thought, be got done by clerks. In his view such appointments were necessitated by the incapacity or neglect of duty on the part of the chief officers. If the chief officers were incapable and could not work without assistants, they should at once be removed and able and more active men appointed in their places.

(3) Unnecessary appointments should not be created. People thought that many such appointments had recently been created, but the Member did not propose to point them out and displease any one.

(4) Persons possessing the minimum qualifications prescribed for the respective posts should alone be appointed to them. If a person having higher qualifications was appointed to a post, the pay for the post would have to be necessarily increased later on. The qualification fixed should depend upon the nature of the post.

The Member finally referred to corruption in the public service. The welfare of the people depended on the removal of such corruption. He said that the corruption prevailing in the Judicial Department had no limit, although most of the presiding officers, he admitted, were free from it. Among the civil courts, the corrupt practices in the Munsiff's courts were past endurance. If it was possible to stop such corruption, all the civil courts would be completely purified.

97. Public Service, with special reference to the undesirability (a) of recruiting foreigners, (b)of retaining those among them already in service who have already completed 55 years of age and (c) of granting extension of service to public servants after attaining pensionable age.

Mr. Narayanan Madhavan Karta (Member, Shertallai taluk) said that the principle that should be kept in view by the Government in making appointments was not that all communities should be proportionately represented, but that all the different taluks should be equally or proportionately represented in the service. He said that the people of northern taluks were greatly at a disadvantage in getting into the public service. He suggested that, until the unrepresented taluks like Shertallai reached a satisfactory status of civilised life, the inhabitants of the taluks from which officials were now largely drawn should not be recruited to the service as far as possible.

He next observed that extension of service after 55 years of age should not be granted to any one at a time when the question of unemployment was being so keenly and seriously felt all over the State. He pointed out that, out of the 36 new teachers

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appointed in the Education Department last year there was not a single man from Shertallai and he was sure that that was not due to want of applications from that taluk.

He deplored how the Judicial Department set at naught the resolution of the Legislative Council demanding the suspension of the recent *Civil Courts' Guide*. He suggested that a Registrar of Affidavits on a reasonable pay be appointed to lessen the difficulties of parties in getting affidavits duly attested by qualified persons.

98. Defects in the public service and the difficulties of the litigant public.

Mr. P. K. Joseph (Member, Trading Classes, Kayankulam) represented that the hardship the people suffered on account of the indifference of Government officials was great. He confined his remarks to the irregularities of the judicial subordinates owing to lack of supervision by their superiors which was the key to efficiency. The laxity of control of the High Court over the lower judiciary led to accumulation of arrears in all the courts, and even the highest tribunal was not free from that defect.

99. Need for observing certain principles in making appointments and promotions in the public service and for retiring higher officers after the age of 55.

Mr. K. M. Manman Mappillai (Member, Municipal Council, Tiruvalla) prefaced his representation with the remark that it was gratifying to note that the Malayalam shorthand writers appointed by the Government were doing their work quite well. He then stated that the public service of the State stood in need of improvement in certain respects. In the first place, there was no consistency in the principle followed in the matter of appointments. Instances were not wanting of new posts being created to benefit particular individuals and not with a view to secure efficiency in the service. There were, again, officers who bestowed their official patronage exclusively on their castemen. Government should call for a list of appointments made by heads of departments and satisfy themselves that the powers of appointment vested in those officers were not wantonly abused. Another regrettable feature of the State service was the absence of principle in the matter of promotions. Junior men in the service were often given sudden lifts, in disregard of the claims of men of proved ability and senior to them in service. Extensions of service were given, in some cases, to officers in service after the completion of their 55th year. The interests of the service required that acts of that kind that savoured of official nepotism should not be countenanced. Again, the practice of promoting Judges of the High Court to executive posts was highly objectionable; for the prospect of promotion would induce them to court popularity and that might naturally interfere with the efficient discharge of their judicial functions. Another evil that called for urgent remedy was the prevalence of corruption in the different branches of the State service. The Member suggested that the matter should be thoroughly investigated and the erring officers sought out and brought to book.

100. Recruitment to Public service.

Mr. K. C. Eapen B. A. (Member, Trading Classes, Trivandrum), while appreciating the desire of the Government to approach public questions from the popular standpoint, stated that the administration of the State was not all that it ought to be. Laxity of principle, especially in matters of appointment, and inordinate delay in the settlement of even urgent matters were features common to almost all departments of the State service. Some heads of departments, without realising their duties and responsibilities, resorted to objectionable ways and practices highly detrimental to the interests of the State. The statements of appointments furnished by departmental heads were in some cases quite misleading. Instances were not wanting of officers who would bestow their official favours on none but those of their own community. The Member thought that those evils could not be remedied unless men of good character, conscience and common sense were recruited to the service. In his opinion, the present system of recruitment was defective in that it not only shut out from the service men of real worth, but also produced much communal strife in the State. The Member suggested that recruitment in general should be regulated by a competitive examination, with the necessary safeguards to protect the interests of minorities. He also urged the necessity for the appointment of a committee so as to give the people some sort of responsibility in the matter

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